

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179019
ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179019

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAS, SHUM
SUBJECT: SIGNING SAN JOSE CONVENTION

1. AMBASSADOR OF PERU TODAY SIGNED AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, "PACT OF SAN JOSE", ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN CEREMONY AT THE OAS WHICH AMBASSADORS TODMAN AND MCGEE ATTENDED. PERU'S ACTION BRINGS TO 14 NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SIGNED (PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED FOR THE US ON JUNE 1): NUMBER OF RATIFICATIONS HAS REACHED THREE (COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA) OF 11 REQUIRED AND PROCESS OF US RATIFICATION IS NOW UNDERWAY.

2. SIGNING PACT OF SAN JOSE IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC ACT EVIDENCING COMMITMENT OF OAS MEMBERS TO PROMOTION OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 179019

HUMAN RIGHTS BUT ITS ADOPTION WILL BRING NEW MULTILATERAL MACHINERY TO BEAR ON THIS SERIOUS ISSUE. CONVENTION IT-SELF IS ESSENTIALLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL DOCUMENT THAT RE-AFFIRMS PRINCIPLES/OBLIGATIONS OF PREVIOUS UN/OAS DECLARATIONS, DELINEATES SCOPE OF RIGHTS UNDER CONVENTION, REINFORCES STATUS OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHES HUMAN RIGHTS COURT THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE

FURTHER TO PROMOTION OF HIGH STANDARDS OF JUSTICE IN
WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES ALL TOOK
STRONG STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN GRENADA. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF A SERIES OF RESOLU-
TIONS CALLING FOR FURTHER STEPS TO MULTILATERALIZE
MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE INTER-
AMERICAN FRAMEWORK. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EACH OF
THESE GOVERNMENTS TO SIGN SAN JOSE PACT AS EARNEST OF
ITS FIRM AND PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING HIGHER
STANDARDS AND AS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD COLLECTIVE DEFENSE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH WORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS AMBASSADORS/
CHARGES TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CASE AT HIGHEST
LEVEL OF HOST GOVERNMENT, STRESSING BROAD SUPPORT FOR
PACT EVIDENCED BY 14 SIGNATORIES AND CONTRIBUTION
SIGNATURE/RATIFICATION BY REQUISITE NUMBER OF STATES WILL
MAKE TO PRESTIGE OF OAS AND REPUTATION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP
FOR ADHERENCE TO HIGH REGIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT IN HUMAN
RIGHTS. VANCE

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TAGS: PORG, SHUM, BL, OAS
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